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Message Text

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13
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /030 W
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R 281952Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5410

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 12778

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, VE
SUBJECT: FORTY MEP LABOR LEADERS REPORTED
BOLTING PARTY

1. SOURCES WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) REPORT THATFORTY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LABOR LEADERS OF THE PEOPLES ELECTORAL MOVEMENT (MEP) HAVE RESIGNED OR ARE ON THE VERGE OF RESIGNING THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THAT PARTY. JUAN JOSE DELPINO, CTV VOCAL AND LONG REGARDED AS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEP LABOR LEADER, REPORTEDLY HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION. HE WILL SOON BE JOINED BY PETROLEUM WORKERS (FEDEPETROL) PRESIDENT CARLOS PINERUA, FETRAZULIA PRESIDENT CARLOS GALUE NAVEA, EX-SENATOR AND EX-FEDEPETROL VICE PRESIDENT ISMAEL ORDAZ, AND NUMEROUS OTHER MEP LABOR LUMINARIES.

2. FEDEPETROL AND FETRAZULIA ARE THE ONLY TWO FEDERATIONS CURRENTLY CONTROLLED BY MEP (IN BOTH CASES IN COALITION WITH COPEI). IF THE DEFECTIONS FROM MEP REACH THE PROPORTIONS REPORTED, MEP WILL CEASE TO BE A MAJOR FORCE IN VENEZUELAN LABOR. WHILE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE DEFECTORS WILL REJOIN AD IMMEDIATELY, THAT WILL, IN OUR VIEW, BE THE FINAL DESTINATION OF MOST OF THEM. THE MEP DEFECTORS WILL RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME FROM THE AD LEADERSHIP OF THE CTV AND CAN EXPECT TO RETAIN THEIR CURRENT HIGH POSITIONS IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT. MEP'S DEMISE AS A FORCE IN ORGANIZED LABOR WOULD LEAVE AD IN CONTROL OF ALL CTV FEDERATIONS
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WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TINY PARALLEL PETROLEUM WORKERS

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FEDERATION (FETRAHIDRACARBUROS) WHICH STILL REMAINS IN THE HANDS OF URD (URD IS ALSO IN DISARRAY OVER THE JOVITO VILLALBA-MONTIEL ORTEGA SPLIT - CARACAS 10127).

3. COPEI WOULD BE HURT BY THE DEMISE OF MEP IN THE SENSE OF LOSING ITS JUNIOR PARTNER STATUS IN THE COALITIONS CONTROLLING FEDEPETROL AND FETRAZULIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, COPEI WOULD BE CONFIRMED AS THE ONLY SERIOUS NATION-WIDE OPPOSITION TO AD LABOR HEGEMONY.

4. MEP'S GREATEST STRENGTH HAS ALWAYS RESTED IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT. IF ITS LABOR BASE IS DESTROYED, MEP WILL PROBABLY DETERIORATE INTO YET ANOTHER OF THE MANY MINI-PARTIES ON THE LEFT. INDEED, THE RISE IN STRENGTH OF EXTREME LEFT MARXIST FACTIONS WITHIN MEP HAS BEEN A MJOR FACTOR IN PROVOKING THE DEFECTION OF OLDER, MORE CONSERVATIVE, BREAD AND BUTTER, PRACTICAL TRADE UNIONISTS.
VAKY

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